

set forth in clear and understandable language the details of culdoscopic examination of the pelvis so that one previously unfamiliar with the procedure may be left with a working knowledge of the technic.

The book opens with the history of pelvic visualization, and such related subjects as diagnostic pneumoperitoneum with utilization of the knee-chest position and the diagnostic and therapeutic uses of posterior colpotomy are included. Value of the instrument in ectopic pregnancy, endometriosis, and infertility problems is discussed at length. Especially interesting is the section regarding its use in infertility problems which stresses diagnosis by direct visualization of minor pelvic pathology which interferes with tubal and ovarian function and the advantages of the determination of tubal patency or block under direct vision. The last portion of the book is devoted to case histories illustrating clinical application of the method.

Those who have gained experience with the culdoscope are enthusiastic about its use and agree with TeLinde, who states in the foreword at the beginning of the book that it does not appear to be "just another gadget, but a most effective gynecologic diagnostic instrument." A knowledge of the instrument seems desirable for all who encounter problems in gynecologic diagnosis, and the price of the book is low enough to encourage its widespread distribution to the profession.

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**THE HUMAN PELVIS**—Carl C. Francis, A.B., M.D., Assistant Professor of Anatomy, Department of Anatomy, Western Reserve University, Cleveland, Ohio. The C. V. Mosby Company, 1952. 210 pages, \$5.00.

This slender volume was written by an anatomist to serve as a text for a course in applied anatomy for surgical residents and practicing surgeons. It describes quite briefly not only the bones, muscles, vessels and nerves of the pelvis, but deals also with the pelvic portions of the intestinal and urinary tracts, and with the genitalia, both male and female. The final chapter is a very condensed summary of the embryological development of the rectum, urinary tract, and genitalia. There are sixty-one illustrations in black and white, some original, many borrowed from other textbooks, none particularly outstanding. As one might anticipate, a guide book of this sort offers nothing new, and most of the text is so brief that the volume would be useful only for reviewing the highlights of pelvic architecture. In this respect the book undoubtedly will be of aid to those particular students for whom it was designed. For others it appears not to be a worthwhile investment.

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**FUNDAMENTALS OF PSYCHIATRY**—5th Edition—Edward A. Strecker, M.D., Sc.D., LL.D., Litt.D., F.A.C.P., Professor of Psychiatry and Chairman of the Department, University of Pennsylvania Undergraduate and Graduate Schools of Medicine. J. B. Lippincott Company, Philadelphia, 1952. 237 pages, 21 illustrations, \$4.50.

This is the fifth edition of a very popular text "dedicated to the ever increasing number of medical students, internes, residents and practitioners in all the areas of medicine who, wishing to be complete physicians, realize that man is unified and total in his functioning . . ." The author emphasizes the need for an increased number of psychiatrists; that one of every twelve school children will need psychiatric attention in adult life; that more than one million are destined to become patients in mental hospitals; and that emotional immaturity can be more destructive than an "H" bomb. Following the brief introduction concerning the historical background of psychiatry, its relationship to other specialties in medicine, and the development of the concept of psychosomatic medicine, the etiological factors, predispos-

ing and exciting causes, both physical and psychological, of mental illnesses are described. Considerable attention is given to the classification of various kinds of mental illnesses. The details of the psychiatric examination are described, including procedures to follow in a mental examination. Definitions of psychiatric terms are presented in a simple, uncomplicated manner and illustrated by many clinical examples. The "organic" and "functional" psychoses, the psychoneuroses, and the defective reaction types (mental deficiency—a term which the author does not like) are delineated and illustrated by short case reports and a series of lucid diagrams. Treatment of various kinds, including the drastic therapies (insulin shock, electroshock, prefrontal leukotomy), psychotherapy, "support therapy," and group therapy are all briefly considered. Special chapters on war psychiatry and psychiatric nursing are presented and a glossary defining commonly used psychiatric words concludes the volume.

For the student and beginner, this volume is a clear, succinct account of present-day psychiatry.

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**BACITRACIN—A Review and Digest of the Literature Up to and Including January, 1952.** Research Division, S. B. Penick & Company, 50 Church Street, New York, 1952. 127 pages.

This book is a tract designed to promote bacitracin. It underplays the serious toxic actions of this agent and overplays its potential value in therapy. Preparations of bacitracin for local application to the skin are extremely valuable but are dismissed in this volume in a few pages. Rare cases require systemic administration of this agent and all the rest of the book is essentially devoted to this aspect of the subject. The physician who wishes to treat a patient in this way may wish to refer to the extensive bibliography contained in this book but he would be well advised to avoid the text.

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**THE CLINICAL USE OF FLUID AND ELECTROLYTE**—John H. Bland, M.D., Assistant Professor of Medicine, University of Vermont College of Medicine. W. B. Saunders Company, Philadelphia, 1952. 259 pages, \$6.50.

Following a general review of body water and electrolytes under normal conditions, the author has described the recognition and treatment of their abnormalities such as are associated with congestive heart failure and its management, renal diseases, diabetes mellitus, surgical operations, shock, other forms of stress, etc. Special attention is given to the particular problems of both very young and aged patients.

Although its physical appearance is unattractive, the book succeeds in presenting large amounts of useful information. Perhaps it is the lack of an index which nullifies attempts to find material on the use of hormones in the treatment of the nephrotic syndrome or on the disturbances associated with chronic hepatitis and ascites, and perhaps some might disagree with a few statements.

These, however, are minor criticisms. The monograph is clearly useful both to students of medicine and to practitioners.

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**THE KNEE AND RELATED STRUCTURES—Injuries, Deformities, Diseases and Disabilities**—Philip Lewin, M.D., F.A.C.S., F.L.C.S., Professor and Chairman of Bone and Joint Surgery, Northwestern University Medical School. Lea and Febiger, Philadelphia, 1952. 914 pages, 333 figures, and 2 colored plates, \$16.00.

This particular volume is a much better organized and presentable work than a similar volume published by the same author on the ankle. In general, it follows the same format as the previous book on the ankle, but it has covered